

Message Text

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ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 MMO-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03

TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 CU-04

EUR-12 /114 W

-----126523 150620Z /20

P 150425Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7576

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 9656

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECRP KS

SUBJ: CERP 002. RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES

REF: (A) STATE 249989, (B) 73 STATE A-6884

(C) SEOUL 8734, (D) SEOUL A-27

SUMMARY: THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA'S RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES ARE EXTREMELY LIMITED. WHILE THE ROK HAS SOUGHT CAUTIOUSLY TO DEVELOP SUCH RELATIONS IN RECENT YEARS, THE COMMUNIST GOVERNMENTS, LARGELY IN RESPONSE TO PRESSURE FROM NORTH KOREA, HAVE BEEN SLOW TO RESPOND. NONETHELESS THERE HAS BEEN SOME PROGRESS IN THE PAST YEAR (REF C) AND FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS FEEL THERE HAS BEEN A SLIGHT BUT PERCEPTIBLE CHANGE IN ATMOSPHERE ON THE PART OF, IN PARTICULAR, THE SOVIET UNION. THE FOLLOWING REPORT IS KEYED TO THE OUTLINE PROVIDED IN REF B AS AMENDED BY REF A. END SUMMARY.

I. POLITICO ECONOMIC RELATIONS

1. OMITTED PER INSTRUCTION, REF. (A).

II. LOCAL COMMUNIST PARTFMPXBERSHIP: VXU)

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2. COMMUNIST ACTIVITY AND ORGANIZATIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED BY LAW AND THE PROHIBITION IS RIGIDLY ENFORCED. APART FROM OCCASIONALLY DISCOVERED CLANDESTINE AGENTS THERE IS NO COMMUNIST ACTIVITY IN THE COUNTRY.

III. DIPLOMATIC, CONSULAR, AND TRADE MISSIONS: (U)

3. NO COMMUNIST COUNTRY HAS ANY FORMAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA.

IV.A. CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES: (C)

4. CULTURAL EXCHANGES SO FAR HAVE BEEN LIMITED ALMOST ENTIRELY TO PARTICIPATION OF ROK REPRESENTATIVES IN INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS IN SOVIET BLOC COUNTRIES. A SEMI-OFFICIAL ROK TRADE REPRESENTATIVE, IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER, COMPLETED A VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA DURING WHICH CULTURAL AND ATHLETIC EXCHANGES WERE ALSO TO BE DISCUSSED. ALTHOUGH DETAILED ACCOUNTS OF THE VISIT ARE NOT YET AVAILABLE, ONE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL HAS SAID THAT THE RESULTS WERE ENCOURAGING.

5. THERE HAS BEEN A LIMITED QUANTITATIVE INCREASE IN THE EXCHANGES BETWEEN 1976 AND 1977, WHICH IS PROBABLY A FUNCTION OF AN INCREASE IN BLOC HOSTING OF INTERNATIONAL EVENTS RATHER THAN OF ANY BASIC CHANGE IN ATTITUDE TOWARD THE ROKG IN PARTICULAR. THE ROKG ATTACHES CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO THE FACT THAT THE USSR ADMITTED A ROK DIPLOMATIC OFFICIAL, FOR THE FIRST TIME, TO ATTEND THE UNESCO

ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE THIS OCTOBER. MOFA SPECULATES THAT THIS
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AND OTHER ATMOSPHERIC CHANGES MAY BE A BY-PRODUCT OF THE SOVIET UNION'S DECISION TO HOST THE 1980 OLYMPICS AND RESULTING NEED TO DEMONSTRATE ITS ADHERENCE TO THE PRINCIPLE OF UNIVERSALITY. HOWEVER, THE EXTENT OF INFORMAL CONTACT BETWEEN ROK AND COMMUNIST REPRESENTATIVES IN THIRD COUNTRIES ALSO APPEARS TO HAVE INCREASED SLIGHTLY. WHILE NONE OF THESE EVENTS CONSTITUTES A BILATERAL EXCHANGE IN THE NORMAL SENSE, THEY HAVE PERMITTED AN INCREASE IN BINATIONAL CONTACT.

6. THE FOLLOWING TABLE LISTS VISITS BY ROK REPRESENTATIVES TO COMMUNIST BLOC COUNTRIES IN 1977. (U) (THE ONLY COMMUNIST VISITOR TO THE ROK IN 1977 APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN THE HUNGARIAN SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL WEIGHT-LIFTING FEDERATION, WHO ARRIVED IN KOREA NOVEMBER 9.)

1977

YUGOSLAVIA WORLD BASKETBALL CONFERENCE APRIL

USSR INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM CONFERENCE MAY

RUMANIA INTERNATIONAL ACUPUNCTURE

CONVENTION

MAY

CZECHOSLOVAKIA INTL. OLYMPIC COMMITTEE JUNE

RUMANIA DEAF-MUTE SPORTS TOURNAMENT JULY-AUG.

BULGARIA WEIGHT LIFTING TOURNAMENT JULY

BULGARIA UNIVERSIAD GAMES AUGUST

BULGARIA INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION SEPTEMBER

RUMANIA INTL. RED CROSS CONVENTION OCTOBER
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USSR UNESCO CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT OCTOBER

IV B. OTHER INFORMATION AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES: (U)

7. THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE SINCE THE LAST REPORT (REF D) IN ACCESS OF THE ROK TO NORTH KOREAN MEDIA. NORTH KOREAN RADIO BROADCASTS CONTINUE TO BE BEAMED AT THE ROK ON A VARIETY OF FREQUENCIES, AND CAN BE HEARD DESPITE ROK JAMMING EFFORTS. NORTH KOREAN TELEVISION CAN BE RECEIVED IN AREAS NORTH OF SEOUL BUT IS HEAVILY JAMMED. NORTH KOREAN AND OTHER COMMUNIST PUBLICATIONS ARE ADMITTED ONLY UNDER STRICT CONTROL AND SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION IS REQUIRED FOR ANY ROK CITIZENS TO HAVE ACCESS TO THEM.

8. ROK BROADCASTING STATIONS CARRY SOME PROGRAMMING AIMED AT THE NORTH BUT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE THE EXTENT TO WHICH IT IS RECEIVED. ACCORDING TO MOST REPORTS NORTH KOREAN RADIOS ARE STILL MADE TO RECEIVE ONLY CERTAIN FREQUENCIES, NOT INCLUDING THOSE USED BY THE ROK.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, CERP 0002, COMMUNISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SEOUL09656
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770421-0824
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771157/aaaabwsq.tel
Line Count: 157
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c71cc519-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION INR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 249989, 73 STATE A-6884, 77 SEOUL 8734, 77 SEOUL A-27
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 583321
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CERP 002. RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES
TAGS: ECRP, KS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c71cc519-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009